

WREEL READERS' BOOK REVIEW

Women Reading to Enhance and Enrich Lives



PUSH by Sapphire

Published by: Vintage Books

Distributed by: Random House

Website: www.randomhouse.com

Author's Website:

Back Cover

Precious Jones, an illiterate sixteen-year-old, has up until now been invisible: invisible to the father who rapes her and the mother who batters her and to the authorities who dismiss her as just one more of Harlem's casualties. But when Precious, pregnant with a second child by her father, meets a determined and highly radical teacher, we follow her on a journey of education and enlightenment as precious learns not only how to write about her life, but how to make it her own for first time.

A WREEL Review

While the book "PUSH" itself was a quick read, the story is heart wrenching. Sapphire presents the story in the voice of Precious, who writes in a voice that displays the illiteracy and frustrations she experienced in childhood. The story evolves as Precious begins to realize that she does not have to continue as a victim, that she has a option to take control of her life and her future.

Precious' story will tug at your heart and extract compassion. It gives you in-depth insight into the hurt and pain she experienced. Although the story is brutal, it is engaging. Because your heart goes out to Precious, her story will cause you to continue to read with an earnest desire to know how she was able to survive. Precious' story may open closed wounds or disturb wounds that have not healed for anyone who has been a victim of sexual abuse.

I will keep this book on my bookshelf and recommend it to others who express the desire to either cope with or understand the effects of sexual abuse. However, because of the subject matter, this book may not be suited for reading groups who may lack the capacity or compassion to help members who may have been a victim of sexual abuse. A group discussion could lead to information that the group is not prepared or equip to discuss. If you do choose to read "PUSH" as a group, I recommend that you seek resources to help anyone who may need it.

WREEL Readers' as a group rated PUSH a five (5) based on the WREEL Readers' rating scale.

Reviewed September 2009 by Patricia D. Howard

Email: pdhoward@wreelreaders.com

WREEL Readers Rating Scale

Members are asked to rate books on a scale of 1 - 5. Member's votes determine the group rating. The group rating is the average of all votes of cast by members participating in the voting process.

The Rating Scale

5. Loved this book would definitely recommend it
4. Good Book – would read another book by this author
3. It was an ok read but I have definitely read better
2. I would not recommend this book
1. I could not finish the book